

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03693 01 OF 02 241340Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5860

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3693

NODIS CHEROKEE

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, JO, US, XF, OVIP (KING HUSSEIN)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED HUSSEIN VISIT

REF: A) STATE 101041, B) AMMAN 3592, C) STATE 102282

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE AND PARTICULARLY PARA 1 WHICH
GIVES ME A MUCH CLEARER INSIGHT INTO YOUR OWN SENSE OF
HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH HUSSEIN IN THE FUTURE.

2. GIVEN YOUR OBJECTIVE OF SEEING HUSSEIN IN WASHINGTON AT THE
"PROPER MOMENT," I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DO ALL
POSSIBLE IN THE SENSE OF THE PARALLEL AND DIRECTLY-
RELATED OBJECTIVE ALSO OF AVOIDING SOURING HUSSEIN ON THE
U.S. AND PARTICULARLY THE PRESIDENT. CERTAINLY IT MAKES
NO SENSE FOR THE PRESIDENT EVENTUALLY TO AGREE TO SEE
AN IRATE KING WHOSE SENSE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE PRESIDENT IS UPSET BY HAVING BEEN "PUT OFF" IN A REQUEST
NOW FOR A VISIT. KING HAS BEEN SENDING ME INDIRECTLY MESSAGES
ALL WEEK INDICATING HOW MUCH HE IS COUNTING ON HIS VISIT
PROPOSAL WORKING OUT. IT WILL BE A HELL OF A BUMP TO
ATS EGO AND HIS SENSE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IF
I TELL HIM WHAT YOU RECOMMEND IN REFTEL A.

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3. AS A RESULT, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO DO SOME RECASTING
OF THE POINTS WHICH I SHOULD MAKE TO HIM.

4. I BELIEVE I SHOULD BEGIN BY TELLING HIM WHAT
YOU HAVE INCORPORATED IN THE FIRST TICK IN PARA 1
OF REFTEL A--ESSENTIALLY THAT THE TIME PERIOD HE

REQUESTED IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE REASONS WHICH YOU
SO CLEARLY STATE.

5. I BELIEVE MOST IMPORTANT THAT I SHOULD THEN CONTINUE BY STATING
THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE DATES.
HOWEVER, THIS PROCESS GOES ON AGAINST THE BACKDROP
OF AND RELATED CLOSELY TO THE RESULTS OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS
WHICH WE ARE HAVING WITH THE ISRAELIS
AND THE EGYPTIANS. I WILL REMIND HIM, IN
CASE HE MISSED IT, WHICH IS UNLIKELY, THAT DAYAN
IS GOING TO WASHINGTON AND THAT SADAT HAS OFFERED A
KAMEL VISIT AS WELL. I WOULD THEN SAY TO HIM FRANKLY
THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT TALKS WITH THE KING
WOULD BE MUCH MORE PRODUCTIVE FOR BOTH OF US AT A
TIME WHEN: A) WE HAVE FINISHED THIS ROUND OF CONVER-
SATIONS INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER AHERTON
TRIP TO THE AREA WHERE HE WOULD OF COURSE STOP OFF AND
SEE HUSSEIN; AND B) IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ROUND OF DIS-
CUSSIONS, WHEN WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY MORE CLEARLY
TO SYNTHESIZE OUR THINKING ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA
ISSUE AND WHERE WE SHOULD GO NEXT ON THESE POINTS.
AFTER ALL, THESE WILL BE THE MOST COGENT ISSUES FOR US
TO DISCUSS WITH HUSSEIN. WE HOPE THIS CAN BE WORKED
OUT SOON. (HERE I THINK IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO
TELEGRAPH A LITTLE BIT TO HUSSEIN THE MESSAGE THAT OUR
INTEREST IN HIS VISIT IS PREDICATED ON WHAT HE CAN DO
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TO HELP US.)

6. THEN I WOULD REPEAT THE POINTS FROM REFTTEL A ABOUT
THE HIGH PRIORITY WE PLACE ON OUR TRADITIONAL RELATIONS
AND OUR VIEW OF THE NECESSITY TO KEEP HUSSEIN INVOLVED.

7. I WOULD THEN STATE THAT WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD
IN THE MEANTIME TO GENERAL BIN SHAKER'S VISIT. SINCE
THE JORDANIANS, UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE KING
WOULD JUGGLE INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES HERE, HAVE
ALREADY PLANNED FOR BIN SHAKER TO COME AS OFFERED ON
MAY 23-26, I BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE, AS PARA 3 OF
PPU IYZC DOES NOT DO, TO KEEP OPEN THOSE ALTERNATIVE DATES.

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 AMMAN 3693

NODIS CHEROKEE

FROM AMBASSADOR

(PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY ON THIS POINT SINCE IT APPEARS THAT DEPARTMENT ASSUMES JUNE 18 IS ONLY POSSIBLE DATE FOR BIN SHAKER VISIT. WE HAVE FOOLED LONG ENOUGH WITH THIS ONE NOT TO LOSE ANY MORE POINTS BY PLAYING WITH IT FURTHER. I HAVE ASKED BUT NEVER BEEN TOLD WHETHER A DATE EARLIER THAN JUNE 18 IS POSSIBLE. WOULD YOU PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION FOR ME AS WELL?) CONTINUING, I WOULD TELL HUSSEIN THAT THIS MEETING (SHAKER VISIT) (WHenever IT OCCURS) SHOULD DO MUCH TO PREPARE FOR HIS OWN VISIT AND WILL BE HELPFUL TO BOTH OF US IN REVIEWING JORDAN'S MILITARY PROGRAMS. IN THE SENSE THAT HUSSEIN CAN HELP US IN MOVING NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD, HUSSEIN WILL ALSO EXPECT US OBVIOUSLY TO HELP HIM, PARTICULARLY ON THE MILITARY SIDE. THE MESSY UNDERBRUSH OF CONTINUING AND ONGOING PROBLEMS SHOULD BE CLEARED AWAY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SEES HUSSEIN, OTHERWISE HUSSEIN WILL INSIST ON WASTING TIME ON WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY MILITARY AID TRIVIA FOR US, AND CERTAINLY FOR THE PRESIDENT, (BUT NOT OF COURSE FOR HUSSEIN).

8. FINALLY, IF HUSSEIN SHOULD GENUINELY WISH TO COME TO NEW YORK TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION HE HAS THERE
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(I NOW LEARN APPARENTLY IT IS FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION), I BELIEVE I SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL HIM THAT WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IF HE DECIDES TO ADDRESS AT THE SAME TIME THE UN SSOD, FOR THE SECRETARY TO SEE HIM IN NEW YORK IN ORDER TO REVIEW WHERE THINGS STAND AT THAT TIME AND OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO FIND, AS WE CONTINUE OUR TALKS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS,

A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE FOR A WORKING VISIT IN WASHINGTON.

9. I RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR CONCERNS ARE ORIENTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT HERE OURS ALSO ARE SIMILARLY ORIENTED. HOWEVER, I CAN SEE CLEAR PROPENSITY IN OUR PUTTING OFF HUSSEIN, WITHOUT MUCH FRANKNESS IN THE REASONS FOR DOING SO, FOR THE CREATION OF A SENSE OF CRISIS AND TENSION IN OUR RELATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY HIP WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHICH IS BOTH UNNECESSARY AND NOT PRODUCTIVE IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND COULD WELL RIVAL THE SENSE OF BITTERNESS AND UNHAPPINESS THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCED IN THE POST-1967 PERIOD. SINCE THE ESSENTIAL TRADE-OFF WHICH YOU HAVE PROPOSED-- ENOUGH PROGRESS IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS TO WARRANT HUSSEIN VISIT--IS PURELY SOMETHING OVER WHICH HUSSEIN HAS NO CONTROL, MY SPEAKING TO HIM ALONG THE LINES ABOVE WILL DEFINITELY PREDICATE A VISIT IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. I BELIEVE THE RISK OF SUCH AN UNDERTAKING IS NECESSARY TO OFF-SET THE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HUSSEIN WOULD UNDERGO AND THE CONSEQUENT DIFFICULT RESULTS SUCH WOULD HAVE FOR GETTING HIM INTO THE PEACE PROCESS. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE WITH THIS STRATEGY BUT ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT IT TRIES TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN HUSSEIN'S REQUEST AND OUR PUTTING
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HIM OFF FOR THE MOMENT BY GIVING HIM SOME INKLING AS TO WHY WE ARE DOING SO IN THE MOST POSITIVE TERMS POSSIBLE.

10. SINCE HUSSEIN WILL BE TAKING OFF TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY FOR YUGOSLAVIA, I WOULD ASK YOUR EARLIEST CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE AND REPLY SOONEST.
PICKERING

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